

**Testimony of Becky Beauregard, Program Manager
Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund
House Agriculture Committee
Re: HBs 5711-5716
February 21, 2006**

My name is Becky Beauregard, and I am the Program Manager of the Michigan League of Conservation Voters/Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak today. Michigan LCV opposes HBs 5711-5176 for a number of reasons.

- These bills gives animal factory farms, the least regulated industry in the state, a free pass to pollute as much as they want by not requiring water pollution (NPDES) permits and exempting many facilities from all state environmental laws unless operators "knowingly and recklessly" impair natural resources. This reactive approach puts the health of our citizens and our natural resources in jeopardy.
- The bills also victimize victims of animal factory farms by requiring names and addresses of those citizens filing complaints against these facilities. This required information makes victims vulnerable to paying the costs of resulting inspections.
- Finally, these bills take money away from much needed programs- Michigan's Clean Water Grant program, and Michigan's Pollution Prevention Revolving Loan Fund to the Department of Agriculture to subsidize animal factory farms.

Having grown up in a rural mid-Michigan community, I realize how important agriculture is to our state and the economy. However, these bills do nothing for family farms- they take away the few regulations large animal factory farms are subject to, and they are putting the health of our citizens and our natural resources at stake. No industry should go unchecked and allowed to pollute as much as they want. These animal factory farms are already under regulated and over subsidized. These bills will only hurt our water, health, and quality of life.